

1. **India's Trade Deficit** : Recently, India's trade performance showed marked improvement as the overall trade deficit narrowed to \$6.6 billion in May 2025, reflecting a sharp **30% drop** compared to the same month last year.
  - This was driven by a decline in oil import costs and a strong surge in services exports, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
  - **About Trade Deficit:** Occurs when a country's total imports of goods and services exceed its total exports. This leads to a negative trade balance, indicating that the country is purchasing more from the world than it is selling.
    - Covers both **goods** (physical products like machinery, oil, etc.) and **services** (such as tourism, IT services, banking, etc.), making it a comprehensive measure of external trade imbalance.
    - **Formula : Trade Deficit = Total Imports – Total Exports** (If the result is positive, it indicates a trade deficit; if negative, it suggests a trade surplus)
  - **Key Highlights:** Total exports in May 2025 rose to **\$71.1 billion**, up from **\$69.2 billion** in May 2024, reflecting a **2.8% year-on-year growth**.
    - India's total **merchandise imports** declined by **1.7%**, reflecting the reduced burden of crude oil prices.
    - Services imports also edged up **by 1.5%**, indicating a steady demand for cross-border services.
  
2. **Portulaca Bharat** : Recently, scientists discovered a new species of flowering plant, Portulaca bharat, in the rocky landscapes of the Aravalli Hills near Jaipur.
  - **About Portulaca Bharat: Habitat:** Grows on dry, rocky slopes in the Aravalli hill range.
    - **Leaf Structure:** Characterized by opposite, slightly concave leaves.
    - **Flowers:** Display pale yellow petals with creamish-white tips.
    - **Distinctive Traits:** Includes glandular hairs on the stamen filaments and thick, robust roots, possibly an adaptation to the harsh terrain.
    - Threats include **urban expansion, mining activities, and climate change.**



- Considered as **micro-endemic** and **highly vulnerable**, given its extremely limited distribution and small population.
  - Currently listed as "**Data Deficient**" under IUCN Red List criteria due to the lack of comprehensive population data.
- 3. Obstructive Sleep Apnoea:** Recently, an international study published in Nature Communications revealed that rising global temperatures could substantially increase the prevalence and severity of obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA).
- The study warns that if climate change continues unchecked, it could lead to serious consequences for public health, the economy, and overall well-being.
- **About OSA:** Most common sleep-related breathing disorder, affecting nearly 1 billion people globally.
    - It occurs when throat muscles intermittently relax during sleep, blocking the airway and interrupting breathing.
    - These episodes cause a drop in blood oxygen levels and repeatedly disturb sleep, often without the person being fully aware.
  - **Major Health Risks Associated with OSA:**
    - **Cardiovascular Diseases:** Increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart attack, and stroke.
    - **Anxiety and Depression:** Chronic sleep disruption can contribute to or worsen mental health conditions.
    - **Cognitive Disorders:** Linked to a higher risk of dementia, memory loss, and Parkinson's disease.
    - **Reduced Quality of Life:** Daytime fatigue, mood swings, and impaired concentration.
  - A **2023 study by AIIMS, New Delhi**, published in Sleep Medicine Reviews, estimated that, **104 million working-age Indians** suffer from OSA and nearly **50% of them** have moderate to severe forms.
- 4. Shipki La Pass:** Recently, Shipki La Pass, one of India's historic mountain trade routes with Tibet, has been reopened to domestic tourists after decades of restricted access.
- **About Shipki La Pass :** Situated at an altitude of **3,930 mts** in the **Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh**, & lies on the **India-China border**, as a key boundary post between the two nations.

- **Geographical Significance:** It is one of the **highest motorable mountain passes** in India.
    - ✓ The **Sutlej River**, known as **Langqen Zangbo** in Tibet, enters Indian territory through this pass, enhancing its geographical and strategic importance.
  - **Historical Importance:** Known as **Pema La** or the **Shared Gate**, the pass symbolized centuries of **Indo-Tibetan trade and cultural exchange**, long before the establishment of modern national boundaries.
  - **Strategic Relevance:** Following the **1962 Indo-China war**, Shipki La was designated as part of the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
    - ✓ It was later officially named **Shipki La** by the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** due to its continued strategic and border management significance.
- 5. SIPRI Report:** Recently, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its 2025 yearbook, highlighting significant developments in global nuclear arsenals.
- A key finding is that **India now possesses more nuclear warheads than Pakistan**, while **China's nuclear stockpile is expanding at a rapid pace**.
  - **About SIPRI:** It is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
    - **Established in:** 1966
    - **Vision:** SIPRI envisions a world where sources of insecurity are recognized, conflicts are preempted or resolved, and peace is enduring.
    - **Provision of Data and Analysis:** SIPRI provides data, analysis, and recommendations sourced from open channels, offering valuable insights into global security trends.
    - **Target Audience:** SIPRI's research serves policymakers, researchers, media, and the general public, contributing to informed decision-making and public discourse
- 6. Bonn Climate Change Conference :** Recently, the annual Bonn Climate Change Conference began as a key mid-year summit under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It serves as an important platform for technical negotiations and agenda-setting ahead of COP30, scheduled for November 2025 in Brazil.

- **About the Bonn Climate Change Conference:** Officially known as the **Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SBs)**.
    - It is one of the two key annual summits under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**—the other being the **Conference of the Parties (COP)**.
    - While **COP** focuses on high-level political negotiations and commitments, the **Bonn Conference** is more technical in nature, laying the **scientific, procedural, and policy groundwork** for COP decisions.
    - Established as part of the **UNFCCC framework signed in 1992**.
  - **Key Institutional Bodies:**
    - **Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI):** Focuses on reviewing the implementation of climate decisions and enabling technical and financial support, especially for developing nations.
    - **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA):** Acts as a bridge between scientific research (mainly from the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – IPCC**) and policymakers, guiding evidence-based decisions on climate action.
7. **Samarth :** Recently, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), officially launched the **‘Samarth’ Incubation Program**—a flagship initiative designed to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the telecom and ICT ecosystem.
- **About Samarth:** Envisioned as a **comprehensive incubation and acceleration program** to support early-stage startups working in frontier areas such as:
    - ✓ **5G/6G and emerging telecom technologies**
    - ✓ **Cybersecurity and quantum computing**
    - ✓ **Artificial Intelligence and IoT applications**
  - The program is conducted in **two cohorts annually**, each lasting six months and supporting up to **36 startups in total**.
  - **Execution Partners:** Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and TiE Delhi-NCR (The Indus Entrepreneurs)
  - A **hybrid format**, it combines financial support, expert mentoring, lab infrastructure, investor connect, and office space to convert innovative ideas into market-ready solutions.

- 8. India's Wind Energy :** Recently, on **World Wind Day 2025 (June 15)**, India crossed a significant milestone by surpassing **51 GW of installed wind energy capacity**, retaining its position as the **4th largest wind power market globally**.
- However, achieving the ambitious **2030 target of 140 GW** remains a major challenge due to persistent **systemic, infrastructural, and policy-related obstacles**.
  - **Key Highlights : Top Performing States:**
    - ✓ **Gujarat:** 12,677 MW (↑ 8.14%)
    - ✓ **Tamil Nadu:** 11,739 MW (↑ 10.71%)
    - ✓ **Karnataka:** 7,351 MW (↑ 22.13%) — Fastest growing
  - **Underutilised Manufacturing Capacity:** Only **4.15 GW** of wind projects installed in 2024–25, compared to **18 GW** annual manufacturing capacity.
  - **Lack of PLI Scheme:** No **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme exists for the wind energy component sector.
  - **Cybersecurity Concerns:** Equipment from China raises concerns about **data security and system vulnerability**.
- 9. Period Labour Force Survey (PLFS):** Recently, India's unemployment rate for those aged 15 and above rose to **5.6% in May 2025**, up from **5.1% in April**, according to the **MoSPI** under its revamped **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**.
- **About PLFS :** a comprehensive household survey, to gather detailed information on various aspects of employment and labour force dynamics in the country.
    - **Conducted by:** The National Statistical Office (NSO) under MoSPI.
    - **Objective:** Estimate key employment and unemployment indicators—**Worker Population Ratio (WPR)**, **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**, and **Unemployment Rate (UR)**—for **urban areas quarterly** using the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**, and **annually for both rural and urban areas** using both **Usual Status (principal + subsidiary status)** and CWS..
  - **Key Highlights:** Female UR rose by 80 bps to 5.8% → Male UR rose to 5.6% from 5.2%.  
 → Rural UR increased to 5.1% (from 4.5%) → Urban UR stood at 6.9% (↑ 40 bps).  
 → Worker Population Ratio (WPR) Dropped to 51.7% in May from 52.8% in April.